

Amendments to the Drawings

Fifteen sheets of Substitute/Formal Drawings are attached, of which two are Replacement Sheets and are clearly marked accordingly. The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 4 and 5. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figures 4 and 5.

In Figure 4, Reference Numbers **5**, **7**, **8** and **18** have been re-drawn to include lead lines in order to more clearly indicate their reference to physical element details of the apparatus (**5** = retentate return line, **7** = retentate inlet, **8** = permeate line, and **18** = inert gas line), while each of the pressures (P) relating to those elements have been assigned new Reference Numbers **21**, **20**, **22** and **23**, respectively.

In Figure 5, Reference Numbers **5**, **7**, **8**, and **18** have been re-drawn and new Reference Numbers **21**, **20**, **22** and **23** have been added as in Figure 4. Additionally, inert gas valve **16** has been re-named **16A** in order to distinguish its position in the Figure 5 apparatus as being different from its position in the Figure 4 apparatus. Likewise, vessel **17** has been re-named **17A** in order to distinguish its position in the Figure 5 apparatus as being different from its position in the Figure 4 apparatus. Moreover, Reference Numbers **16** (now **16A**) and **18**, as well as related pressure **P** (now Reference Number **23**), have been re-positioned in accordance with the Detailed Description.

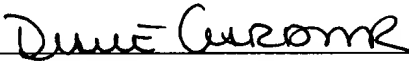
Conclusion

Applicants submit that the foregoing Amendments to the Specification and Drawings do not constitute new matter. The amendments correct certain discrepancies in the specification and clarify the elements in the Figures. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment and the Amendment dated January 24, 2005, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would expedite the disposal of the application, he is invited to reach the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Please charge any necessary fees or apply any credits to Deposit Account No. 50-3137.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Clean version of amended paragraphs (2 pages)
Substitute/Formal Drawings (15 sheets, in duplicate)